

**City of Bloomington  
Telecommunication Council  
Business Meeting – October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Common Council Chambers  
City Hall at the Showers Building  
401 N. Morton St.

**I. Members Present:** Carl Zager, Suzann Owen, Duane Busick

**Others in Attendance:** Spence Taylor – ITS, Michael White – CATS, Special Guest: Lennon Beasley

**II. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Duane Busick to accept the September minutes. The motion was seconded by Suzann Owen. Carl Zager asked if there were any changes or corrections. Suzann Owen stated in the discussion about the Ellettsville video service provider, TCI Holdings. It was not her that discussed that but Michael White from CATS. Question was called by Duane Busick, and all approved.

**III. Public Comment:** None

**IV. Reports**

**1. Telecom Members:**

**Suzann –**

- The FCC focus is all being placed on broadband.
- 131 days before the broadband stimulus the report is suppose to be due.
- There seems to be a lot of focus on network neutrality and how that is going to come down under the current administration.
- Locally, since Comcast is the largest video service provider in our franchise area, our interest now is whether they buy NBC Universal. This will not have any effect of Bloomington consumers, but it will be interesting to keep up with in the industry. Especially with whether or not they get majority control over NBC which is currently owned by General Electric.

**2. CATS – Michael White**

- Listed monthly programming
- Problems that have been corrected:
  - Re-connected with IUSTV, which is a student ran programming. We had trouble with the signal from them. (Ch. 7)
  - The sync problem with Classic Art Showcase was fixed by installing a new dish on the roof.

**Special Guest: Lennon Beasley**

- He reached his goal of producing 500 programs.
- He had actually produced 32 over r the 500.
- He is considering doing a stand-up comedy program.
- He extended a special thank you to Adam Stiwell, and Jason Redkey.
- All were invited to a pizza party to celebrate Lennon's accomplishments on 10/28 at 4pm in the CATS room at the library.

**Suzann –** Is there a catalog or directory of all the programs Lennon has produced?

**Lennon –** You can just ask the master controller.

**Duane –** In all these years of making programs, what is your favorite part?

**Lennon –** Rock Around the Clock! It reminds me of Happy Days and Laverne and Shirley. I also like my new bowling series on Friday nights at 9:30pm on Ch. 7.

**Carl –** When did you first get started?

**Lennon –** 2006, almost four years ago in January.

**Carl –** What lead you to do television productions?

**Lennon –** TV was my passion.

**Carl** - How would people with a message go about getting started producing shows?

**Lennon** - It's not easy but it takes courage. Get help from the CATS staff. I saw a commercial about making your own show, and I checked it out at CATS.

**Carl** - Do you have you won equipment or do you still use CATS equipment?

**Lennon** - I still use CATS equipment, but use my own video camera.

**Carl** - How do you choose the subjects you produce?

**Lennon** - Things I like to do.

**Carl** - The council is pleased with your success. Congratulations on being so successful.

**Carl** - Michael when do you give the quarterly report on the City Grant?

**Michael** - I believe I gave it last month and it is going great.

**3. WTIU - No Report**

**4. ITS Dept. - Rick Dietz - No Report**

**5. Comcast and AT&T - No Report**

## **V. Old Business**

### **1. Reports to City Council**

**Suzann** - The annual report contains:

1. A summary of the councils activities, including suggestions for revisions in our charter which include a few Language changes.
  - Simply changing the words to accommodate the fact that we no longer grant a franchise.
  - The language that uses to be cable television now be referred to as video service.
2. Summary of the major concerns we have had throughout the year.
  - PEG channels
3. Summary of revenue - AT & T and Comcast and an explanation of the relationship with the video service providers, as well as the Indiana Revenue Commission, and other government units.
4. We have also included an addendum, the annual report from CATS, and a summary of WTIU 2.
5. A discussion of the Emergency Notification System that is in place and what has been done to deal with that during 2008.

**Suzann** - I move that we adopt this annual report, and that we forward it onto the city to be put on file.

**Duane** - Seconded motion.

**Carl** - Changes or corrections that need to be made. I would personally like to thank Suzann for all the work she has put into this report.

**Duane** - I think the corrections and updates on the responsibilities are concise.

**Carl** - I hope that becomes a part of what ITS recommends for the charter.

**Duane** - Call for the question.

**Carl** - Question being called. All are in favor, All moved!

### **2. Comcast, EAS, Local Emergency Overrides**

**Carl** - The two issues:

1. The emergency override system that can be activated locally is an analog system and it apparently misbehaves when activated on the digital system. There is discussion between central dispatch and Comcast in trying to figure out what to can be done with the system.
2. The whole question of whether or not local alerts will ever be a part of other video service providers.

**Suzann** - Is there conversation with Smithville on whether they will be able to do local overrides?

**Carl** - I have not had any discussions with Smithville. I will have to pass that on to the ITS Dept.

**Suzann** – My understanding is that the County Telecommunications Council is being re-constituted, do we know if they are active now?

**Duane & Carl** – Not heard anything.

### **3. PEG Channels**

**Carl** – There is still a continuing concern that according to state law our second video service provider is not carrying the six PEG channels in any way. There is discussion about the cities approach to that problem. We should have some updates by the November meeting.

**Suzann** – Michael do we have any information on other communities and whether or not their PEG channels are being added to the video services.

**Michael** – I have from local viewers that a Komomo channel can be picked up.

**Duane** – It's either a Brownsburg or Danville channel that can be picked up as well.

**Michael** – It seems relatively inconsistent around the country. There is a general dissatisfaction from PEG content providers with the way these channels are conveyed, and there are some lawsuits in progress.

**Suzann** – In the telecommunications news, AT & T is aggressively going into a lot of new areas.

### **4. Status of Charter**

Recommended changes in 2008 report.

## **VI. New Business**

**Duane** – I received a phone call from a dissatisfied Comcast/Broadband customer, got notice that his broadband was going to increase from \$30 to \$42, this a 4% increase. I passed on the phone numbers to the IURC, and wished him luck.

**Carl** – When we had a franchise, the FCC removed from the franchise the authority to regulate the broadband aspect “cable “ service, where is broadband in terms of the regulatory commission.

**Duane** – The FCC is the only one.

**Carl** – So, even going to the regulatory commission will not help this customer?

**Duane** – I don't think there is any state control over internet service providers, which is growing frustration.

**Carl** – Local customers have no local place to go to discuss their service. It is apparent that as broadband gets more important to a community; and regulation of that service house in Washington DC with the FCC. There is no connectivity for the local customer.

**Duane** – I did make a connection when I received a call from AT & T salesperson wanting to discuss internet service. I told him I would not consider it until AT&T provided the PEG channels on their video service. This person was in Ohio, and he had no clue what the video service was, but I asked if he would pass on the concern.

**Suzann** – When I stop at the mall, I stop at the AT&T store and ask if they are providing the PEG channels, and they have no idea what I'm talking about. I was also dealing with Comcast over the weekend, and the person was in Fishers, so I found that encouraging.

## **VII. Adjournment**

### **Next Regular Meeting**

Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 at 7:30  
Common Council Chambers in City Hall at the Showers Building  
401 N. Morton St.